

LP News

**Glenn Beck
interviews LNC
chair on TV and
radio shows**

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Libertarian Cliff Hyra running high-visibility race for Virginia governor

by Carla Howell

In April, patent lawyer and family man Cliff Hyra announced his bid to run in Virginia's high-profile race for governor. In this off-off-election year, Virginia is one of only two states (New Jersey being the other) where the governors' seats, along with legislative seats, are up for grabs.

Like many top-of-ticket Virginia races in recent years, the election is already a dog fight between the Democrats and Republicans, and is attracting national media attention.

Hyra is running to restore robust economic growth to the commonwealth through sizable cuts in taxes and regulations, starting with exempting the first \$60,000 of income from the state income tax each year and cutting state spending

accordingly—a cut that would ensure the average family in Virginia pays no state income tax.

"Virginia cannot rely on continued largesse from the federal government to carry it forward," he said. "We must remove the government barriers and burdens that frustrate and impede business formation and expansion. We must reduce both the volume and the impact of regulations dramatically, so that Virginia becomes a draw for small businesses that will employ thousands in new, productive, private-sector jobs."

He also aims to overhaul Virginia's "costly, retrograde, and discriminatory" criminal justice system, in part by granting an absolute pardon to those convicted only of victimless "crimes" such as drug use, al-



Cliff Hyra

lowing them to return home to their families and their jobs.

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Rep. Joseph Stallcop of N.H., former Democrat, joins LP

by Carla Howell



Joseph Stallcop

On May 10, New Hampshire Rep. Joseph Stallcop (Cheshire 4), a former Democrat, announced at a press conference on the state house steps in Concord that he was changing his party affiliation to Libertarian.

"I originally joined the Democratic Party in hopes of making a difference through critical thinking and my classical liberal viewpoint," said Stallcop, "yet with the lack of unbiased data in caucuses, as well as backlash on votes I've independently made, it seems there is no longer a place for me here. With a high regard for individuals [working] to implement positive change, I hereby transfer to the Libertarian Party."

"The way it seems to work up here, you're either rising [on] the political ladder, or taking orders from those who are," Stallcop said at the press conference. "Each session, I was handed a lists of chores telling me what to vote on for that day. If I did my job well, I was quietly left to my own devices," noting that he got a dose of passive-aggressive treatment from certain individuals if he strayed.

He went on to say:

"The mere rumors of my involvement in this transition encouraged others to deceive and interrogate me. I will not be a political prisoner, and will continue to speak my mind against hypocrisy.

"[The Democrats] claim to be against casinos for fear of addiction, yet ignore the Lottery's grasp on the poor.

"They claim to be for criminal justice, though many turned away from a bill that would close the asset-forfeiture loophole.

"They claim to be for the protection of transgender rights, but didn't even mark that bill as a caucus priority.

"This isn't a pat on the back of the other side, however, or as the record suggests, the party of gerrymandering and cronyism."

This is the second time this year that a sitting state representative has left his party to join the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (LPNH). Rep. Caleb Q. Dyer (Hillsborough 37) switched to the LPNH from the Republican Party in February.

"This is an historic day," said LPNH Chair Darryl W. Perry. "For only the second time in the 45-year history of the Liber-

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CHAIR'S Corner

Why Libertarians run for office

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

In early May, I had the honor of speaking at the 2017 conference of the Libertarian Party of Ohio (LPO). Rather than electing officers and changing bylaws, in odd years the LPO puts on a conference focused on training, inspiring, and recognizing the activists that are the lifeblood of the Libertarian Party. During one of this year's presentations, Jeffrey Carson talked about the importance of knowing why you are running for office before you start your campaign.

Every Libertarian has his or her own personal reason for running for office, but there's a common thread: a desire to remove the governmental barriers to a better life for themselves and the people in their community. With the two old parties devolving into contrarian bickering, people are hungry for a political party and candidates who are willing to stand up for the issues that matter to them.

Here are three examples of issues being ignored by the old parties, where the Libertarian solution is one that would make people's lives better.

Free Trade

Libertarians recognize that free trade with other countries leads to a more peaceful world; people who trade with each other are less likely to go to war. We also know that the benefit of American families' ability to buy more goods and services with their paychecks far outweighs any value in giving special breaks to certain corporations and industries. The old parties don't care about the effect on American households' budgets — they just want to control the process of picking which corporate cronies get the special breaks.



Nicholas Sarwark

The War on Drugs

Decades of incarcerating people for the substances they choose to put into their own bodies have left millions struggling to be productive members of the community while saddled with the stigma of a criminal record. Refocusing law enforcement on protecting our communities from violent and property crime instead of enforcing drug laws is the kind of common-sense solution that would improve relations between law enforcement and the communities they serve, ultimately making those communities safer. The old parties both agree on continuing to prosecute the failed "war on drugs," wasting taxpayer money and destroying communities.

Immigration

We recognize that this country was made great through generations of immigrants coming here to make a better life for themselves and their families. Our policy of allowing peaceful people to freely migrate would improve the overall economy, as well as make us safer. When legal immigration is simple and straightforward, we will know who's coming into this country and we would stop the propping up of human smugglers who take thousands of dollars from poor people to often leave them to die in the Sonoran Desert. Building open doors will make us stronger and safer than a wall ever could. Neither old party has any solutions to fix our broken immigration system.

These are just a few of the issues where Libertarian candidates can show their neighbors how we care about policies that would make our communities safer, stronger, and more prosperous. It takes people like you running for office under the Libertarian Party banner to give voice to all the people in the community who share our desire for a freer country. Will you take the first step in running for office and visit LP.org/run-for-office today?

Yours in liberty,
Nicholas J. Sarwark

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Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

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The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others. The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

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Florida town now has two elected Libertarian officials

by Brian McLaughlin and Carla Howell

The city council of Frostproof, Fla. now has two Libertarian officials with the election of Austin Gravley to Seat 2 on April 4. Libertarian Martin Sullivan was elected to the council in 2015 and is in the second year of his three-year term. The council recently chose Sullivan to be vice mayor.

Gravley won 62 percent of the vote in a two-way race. He had run for city council in 2015, losing by only 20 votes. He will serve until his three-year term expires in 2020.

Although the race was nonpartisan, Gravley switched his voter



Libertarian Councilmen Martin Sullivan (second from left) and Austin Gravley (center) at Frostproof, Fla. city hall

registration to Libertarian the day before the election.

"I just found myself aligning more and more with Libertarian views," Gravley said. "I like the idea of government leaving everybody alone."

"I was a Republican before, but I just don't want to keep going down this road where we have two options: big government, or bigger government."

Frostproof is one of four municipalities in the country that have more than one registered Libertarian on their council. The others are Crystal City, Minnesota; Cressona Borough, Pennsylvania; and Lago Vista, Texas.

Gravley: "I found myself aligning more and more with Libertarian views. I like the idea of government leaving everybody alone."

Both Sullivan and Gravley say their primary focus will be to keep the budget under control.

Frostproof's primary economic base for most of a century has been the citrus industry, which is now struggling. Keeping taxes low is key to economic prosperity.

The Libertarians also aim to preserve the town's autonomy.

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Libertarian's recruitment efforts lead to 5 new elected Libertarians

by Elizabeth C. Brierly

Jasen Howard's three years as candidate recruitment director for LP Illinois hit a new high on April 4. Illinoisans elected five new Libertarians to office that day—including Howard himself, now a trustee of New Lenox—and re-elected three more.

Howard recruits candidates by keeping meticulous records, guiding prospects in choosing offices



Jasen Howard

they're most likely to win, and picking up the phone.

"Every election cycle, I go to my database and start dialing those who've inquired through the state or national website." He gets about a 5 percent response rate from sending e-mail, but by telephoning, he reaches 75 percent.

A big part of Howard's recruitment has been to lead by example by running for office and sharing what he learned.

Howard recruits candidates by keeping meticulous records and picking up the phone.

"Show up, articulate reasoned views on town policies, and use social media," he advised. Howard generated public support for his own campaign by making frequent public appearances at town meetings.

"I publicly opposed gaming-machine permits being granted to only two nonprofit organizations," he recalls, referring to the VFW and American Legion. "It was wrong for our town to be picking winners and losers." That policy was eventually overturned, allowing all nonprofits to offer video gaming in their halls.

He attributes this visibility with his appointment to the planning and zoning commission last year, where he also found opportunities to demonstrate

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Civil rights activist running in first-ever Michigan LP primary

Noted Libertarian activist Gregory Creswell will be running in the Michigan LP's (LPMI) first-ever primary election on Aug. 8. He is running unopposed in a special election for state rep in the first district, which includes part of Detroit, and will be the first candidate of any alternative party in the state to appear in a primary election since 1998.

Libertarians achieved ballot status because of Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson's Michigan vote count in 2016. The special election was called because Democratic Rep. Brian Banks resigned after admitting to having provided false information in the course of applying for a loan.

Creswell is known as a spokesperson and volunteer organizer for the successful 2016 Michigan Civil Rights initiative, which effectively prohibits affirmative action.

Creswell is known as a spokesperson and volunteer organizer for the successful 2016 Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI), which effectively prohibits its affirmative action by public institutions based on

race, color, sex, or religion. He ensured that the measure got on the ballot, made frequent appearances on talk radio, and was interviewed on television and in print about the initiative.

Creswell also ran for governor in 2006, and was the only candidate to support MCRI, while also being the only black candidate in the race. In spite of opposition from the mainstream political establishment, the measure, a constitutional amendment, won with 58 percent of the vote. After a federal court challenge, it was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

LPMI Chairman Bill Gelineau said in a press release, "The Libertarian Party is proud to have such a principled candidate as Greg Creswell for this special election. Voters in Detroit deserve a viable alternative to one-party representation. Greg's effort is a bellwether of our commitment to the cities of the 1st

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Gregory Creswell

Photographer: Linda Moore

Stevan Porter launches 2018 U.S. House campaign 20 months before Election Day

by Greta Langhenry

Wasting no time, Stevan Porter demonstrated his seriousness about running for office with the launch of his 2018 campaign for Virginia's 11th congressional seat on March 20, 2017.

"The people deserve choices," says Por-



Stevan Porter, 2018 Libertarian candidate for U.S. House, Virginia's 11th district

ter, who is running against entrenched five-term Virginia Congressman Gerry Connolly, a Democrat who has had no serious opponents since 2010.

Though the 11th district is a Democratic stronghold, Porter hopes to bring another point of view to his constituents this election.

"Too much of our system has degraded into voting against a candidate," said Porter. "The 2016 presidential election is an outstanding example. Too much of it was just, 'She's a liar,' or 'He's a racist.'"

"I'm running for office, not against anyone," he said. He plans to address his constituents with frequent in-person town hall meetings.

Porter aims to balance the federal budget. The first steps he would take, if elected, include:

- actively seek out and eliminate wasteful spending,
- reduce or eliminate the public funding of charitable organizations, and
- downsize or eliminate unnecessary federal departments and programs, along with unneeded business regulations.

Stevan Porter supports ending the federal prohibition of marijuana, which would allow individual states to determine how to regulate use, possession, production, and sale. He also supports the nationwide legalization of marijuana and other cannabis-related products for medical use.

On guns, he says he will "work with the states and other stakeholders to advance Constitutional Carry and National Reciprocity legislation so that all Americans can exercise their Second Amendment rights."

He explains how his 15 years as a volunteer paramedic gave him a key qualification to serve in congress.

"Too many politicians go into government for the glory, or for lavish payouts," he said. "We need people who have shown that they are willing to give their time and effort to help others."

Porter is working hard to spread the word about his campaign. He attends events and posts information on several different online platforms.

"Social media is important," he says. "The millennials are going to shake things

Porter: "The millennials are going to shake things up. Whichever party manages to get them off their iPhones and into the voting booths is going to have a major impact on how politics plays out in this country in the next decade."

up. Whichever party manages to get them off their iPhones and into the voting booths is going to have a major impact on how politics plays out in this country in the next decade."

Porter has established a campaign website, a Facebook profile, an Instagram page, a Twitter account, and a GoFundMe page for fundraising; and he plans to have a SnapChat account soon. •

Campaign website: Porter4US.com

Facebook page: Facebook.com/Porter4US

Cliff Hyra for Va. governor

...continued from page 1

"Virginia's prohibition on marijuana imposes life-altering burdens on its most disadvantaged. We must end the arrest quotas that have sent drug arrests and costs skyrocketing here in Virginia, while 28 other states and the District of Columbia were moving towards marijuana legalization," he said. "While the Democrats and Republicans argue over trivialities, I am the only candidate proposing the bold measures necessary to secure the future of the commonwealth."

Libertarian Rob Sarvis broke the record for an alternative-party candidate when he ran for the office in 2013. In spite of being excluded from debates, he finished with 6 percent of the vote, the highest vote total of any alternative-party candidate for governor in the south in 40 years.

Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and former U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello (Va.-5) are in a tight race for the Democratic Party's nomination. Incumbent Gov. Terry McAuliffe, an ally of Bill and Hillary Clinton, is term-limited, and therefore not running for reelection.

On the Republican side, lobbyist and former GOP National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie polls well ahead of two Republican opponents. He was the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate in 2014 and narrowly lost to Democrat Mark Warner, who now holds the seat.

The primary election on June 13 will determine the

Democratic and Republican nominees.

Sarvis, who also ran in the 2014 U.S. Senate race, beat the margin of victory both that year and in the 2013 governor's race, drawing howls from Republicans who accused him of costing them Republican victories. But exit polls suggested that he pulled slightly more votes from Democratic voters than from Republicans.

No other party is expected to field a gubernatorial candidate this year.

"We must remove the government barriers and burdens that frustrate and impede business formation and expansion...so that Virginia becomes a draw for small businesses that will employ thousands in new, productive, private-sector jobs."

—Cliff Hyra

Virginia Libertarians are raising funds and working furiously to gather over 10,000 valid voter signatures by the June 13 deadline in order to clinch Hyra's spot on the ballot. Those signatures must be distributed from around the state. At least 400 voters from each of 11 congressional

districts must sign the petition in a state that spans over 475 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to just north of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Several other Libertarians seriously considered running for the seat, but were unable to do so for personal reasons; these included author, lecturer, and farm-deregulation champion Joel Salatin and blogger James Bacon of Bacon's Rebellion.

John LaBeaume, who played a key role in the 2013 Rob Sarvis for Virginia Governor campaign, has signed on as Hyra's campaign manager.

Libertarian activist Jackie Mason recruited both Cliff Hyra to run for governor and, wisely, Hyra's wife, Stephanie, to be supportive of her husband's campaign. They have three young children, with a fourth due toward the end of August.

"I have seen Cliff take on issues within our own community with positive outcomes," said Stephanie Hyra. "As a candidate for governor, he has identified multiple areas where quality of life can be improved for everyone in Virginia, and I'm very proud of him for stepping up to run."

In New Jersey, the other state holding key elections in November, Pete Rohman is running on the Libertarian ticket for governor. He is joined by 17 other Libertarian candidates running for state and local office. •

Campaign website: CliffHyra.com

Facebook page: Facebook.com/CliffHyra

Promising Libertarian candidate eyes 2018 run

by Christopher Goins

Libertarian Angela McArdle jumped at the chance to run for U.S. House in California's 34th congressional district, representing downtown Los Angeles, when the seat opened up in January. Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.) had held the seat for 25 years, surviving two redistrictings. But



Angela McArdle

he resigned from his seat in this heavily Democratic district when he accepted Gov. Jerry Brown's appointment to be the state's attorney general. McArdle ran in the April 4, 2017 primary election.

Under California law, only the top two vote-getters proceed to the so-called general election. Two Democrats, Jimmy Gomez and Robert Lee Ahn, won the top two spots, leaving voters with only one party from which to choose a candidate in the June 6 election.

Angela McArdle plans to run for the same seat in 2018. Toward that end, she plans to obtain a pledge of support from 10,000 voters, and is now working the district through free workshops on jury nullification, Fourth Amendment rights, and legal advice.

California LP Chair Ted Brown, who has been recruiting Libertarian candidates since the 1980s, saw McArdle's potential during monthly Libertarian meetings in Pasadena.

"She impressed me as a young, articulate, and intelligent new member, so I asked her to run, and she jumped at the chance," Brown recalls.

"She ran a very proactive and active campaign," he continued, "and she wasn't shy in getting out there to present the Libertarian al-

ternative in a crowded field of 23 candidates."

Of the 23 candidates, 21 were Democrats.

McArdle's platform focused on the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In particular, she opposes U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions's stated desire to continue the failed marijuana prohibition, despite the fact that the people voted to legalize it in eight states—including California.

"You're upset about this?" she recalls. "I am, too. They're unconstitutional."

Her opposition to President Donald Trump's border wall, her support for legalization of cannabis at the federal level, and her opposition to military intervention resonated with voters, she says.

"We can have a stronger national defense without rampant nationalism, racism, or isolationist policies," she said, by which she meant blocking free trade, and overlooking diplomacy. She said that the U.S. should not hand out foreign aid nor shut itself off from other countries.

McArdle plans to run for the same seat in 2018. Toward that end, she plans to obtain a pledge of support from 10,000 voters.

She also advocates repeal of the NDAA and the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act, and elimination of needless bureaucracies, such as the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Once her campaign had ended, McArdle was asked to join her neighborhood council, an invitation she accepted.

"I consider having earned authority and respect from local leaders a win," she said.

McArdle leveraged her advocacy for the homeless in talking with constituents, a passion which resulted from a life-changing visit to the Los Angeles Skid Row district.

"I have moral credit with my constituents because I've demonstrated that I care about people," she said.

She said candidates should know local issues, and she emphasized the importance of face-to-face meetings with constituents.

"You have to tailor your appeal to your demographic," she continued. "There is a way to do that without selling out your beliefs." •

Battle goes on in two lawsuits against FEC, CPD

by Carla Howell

Responding to a court order in the case *Level the Playing Field (LPF) v. Federal Elections Commission (FEC)*, one of two lawsuits in which the Libertarian Party is a co-plaintiff, the FEC brushed off charges that it had neglected to enforce its own regulations when they were violated by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD).

On February 1, U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan had ruled that the FEC must reconsider the criteria that the CPD uses to determine who can be included in presidential debates. Of concern is the requirement that alternative-party candidates must average 15 percent support in five national polls chosen by the CPD. In her ruling, Judge Chutkan said the FEC "acted arbitrarily and capriciously and contrary to law."

Two months later, the FEC responded by reiterating its earlier claim that the CPD's treatment of alternative candidates is just fine.

The FEC asserts in its draft opinion that the 15 percent rule would not have kept six prominent presidential candidates from participating in debates, including Strom Thurmond in 1948, John Anderson in 1980, and Ross Perot in 1992. The April issue of *Ballot Access News*, published by ballot access expert Richard Winger, disproves this and other assertions FEC made in the draft opinion.

LPF is expected to respond to the latest FEC filing by early June. The judge will then issue a new ruling.

Meanwhile, on April 21 a hearing was held in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in a lawsuit brought by Our America Initiative (OAI), which was founded by 2012 and 2016 LP presidential nominee Gov. Gary Johnson. Defendants in the case are the CPD; the Republican and Democratic Parties; and their 2012 presidential nominees, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. Co-plaintiffs are the LP, the Green Party, LP 2012 presidential and vice-presidential nominees Gov. Gary Johnson and Judge James Gray, and their Green Party counterparts.

The lawsuit, which had been thrown out by a district court last year, accuses the CPD of colluding with the major parties in violation of antitrust law.

The appeals brief filed by attorney Bruce Fein, representing Johnson, states, "The concerted actions of Mr. Obama, Mr. Romney and the CPD were intended to cripple or destroy competition in the multi-billion dollar business of campaigning for the presidency.... This was to be accomplished by limiting public information about credible presidential candidates through an exclusionary 15 percent national polling criterion for participation in presidential debates, *i.e.*, an output limitation agreement."

If Johnson's side prevails, the original suit can proceed in district court. The CPD, Mitt Romney, and Barack Obama would then be open to discovery demands from the plaintiffs.

If Johnson's side prevails, the original suit can proceed in district court. The CPD, Mitt Romney, and Barack Obama would then be open to discovery demands from the plaintiffs.

Fein believes the appeals court will issue a ruling within three months after the April hearing.

If the appeals court rules in favor of Johnson, the original lawsuit can proceed

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SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

This month's Convention Oversight Committee (COC) shout-outs go to Danielle Snitker, Heather Gwynn, Jennifer Osborne, Thom Taylor, Keith Thompson, and Laura Ann Valle for their current and continued efforts to make the 2018 Libertarian National Convention in New Orleans a success. Thanks to these individuals and many others for their time, energy, and talent.

If you'd like to join our convention planning crew, reach out to BetteRose Ryan via e-mail at BetteRose@AOL.com. We're waiting to hear from you!

Ex-GOPer, now Libertarian, wins re-election to Elsmere, Del. town council

by Carla Howell

On April 29, Libertarian Edward F. Zielinski was re-elected to his seat on the Elsmere Town Council, representing the fourth district, with the aim of continuing his efforts to cut the town's taxes and spending. He won 74 percent of the vote in a two-way race against Andrew B. Favreau in a nonpartisan race.

Zielinski changed his registration from Republican to Libertarian last year.

In his first term on the Elsmere town council, Zielinski cut property taxes for senior citizens, and cut town spending from \$2.9 million to \$2.83 million (2.4 percent).

He managed to get a resolution passed by the council requiring that all contracts be posted on the town's website.

Zielinski was the only council member to oppose a change to the town's charter that enabled the council to increase government debt from 3 percent of the town's assets, or \$750,000, to 80 percent, or \$20 million.

He was also the sole opposition to a charter change which removed the restriction that any town expenditure over \$110,000 required a referendum vote of the people.

He won his re-election on a platform of improving citizens' quality of life by reduc-

ing the property tax and putting money back in their pockets.

He aims to cut property taxes across the board for all citizens, with the goal of eventually eliminating them altogether.

When asked why he switched his affiliation to Libertarian, he said, "The GOP worked against me. They opposed my reductions in taxes and spending, and they proposed tax increases instead."

He also ran on cutting spending and opposing a new heating system for the town hall, which had a \$1 million price tag. His efforts to cut the price have saved taxpayers more than \$300,000 so far, which, he said, is "still too much and needs to come down a lot more."

Zielinski also aims to bring the referendum process back to the people to put a brake on council spending, and to elimi-

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Rockhold runs to downsize federal government in U.S. House special election

by Greta Langhenry

After Republican Congressman Mike Pompeo was confirmed as Director of the CIA for the Trump administration, Libertarian Chris Rockhold grabbed the opportunity to run for U.S. House in the three-way special election for Kansas's fourth district, held on April 11.

Rockhold ran for U.S. House on a platform of cutting federal government spending, auditing the Federal Reserve Bank, and abolishing the IRS. He advocated privatizing or abolishing a majority of the federal agencies in order to "easily balance the budget, reduce federal overreach, and ensure a prosperous future for Kansans."

"The most powerful tool our citizens have against a corrupt government is taking away its funding," he said.

He sought to bring most U.S. troops home from deployments overseas, a move that he told the *Wichita Eagle* "would actu-

"The most powerful tool our citizens have against a corrupt government is taking away its funding."

—Chris Rockhold



Chris Rockhold

ally provide a stronger national defense."

He opposed President Trump's proposed wall along the Mexican border and called for an immigration policy that would allow people to work toward citizenship.

"This isn't fifteenth-century China," he said of the wall proposal.

Rockhold debated his Democratic opponent, James Thompson, on March 16, which

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Grifoni makes large strides in small Florida city

by Scott Cuthbertson

After successfully deregulating taxi services in December 2015 in Collier County, Florida, and getting elected in November 2016 to the Marco Island City Council, where he now serves as vice chairman, Jared Grifoni continues to draw down Big Government.

Last year, voters approved a statewide ballot measure to amend the Florida constitution to legalize medical marijuana. But local lawmakers are proposing moratoriums on marijuana dispensaries in many communities, including Marco Island.

At a city council meeting on March 7, Grifoni vigorously spoke out against a proposed 12-month moratorium, which

Grifoni described a proposed moratorium on marijuana dispensaries as a “sledgehammer” that creates “unnecessary roadblocks for patients who require medical cannabis to help them with a variety of significant and serious illnesses.”

he described as a “sledgehammer” and “a waste of taxpayer time, a waste of taxpayer money, and it’s an insult to the intelligence of our community.” He also noted that it unnecessarily adds to the already tangled bureaucracy surrounding legalization.

“This ban, this moratorium, is completely unnecessary. It subverts the will of the voters,” he said, pointing out that 60 percent of Marco Island voters supported the amendment as written. “All this does is create unnecessary roadblocks for sufferers and patients who require medical cannabis to help them with a variety of significant and serious illnesses.”

Perhaps the most damning piece of evidence presented by Grifoni was a clause in the proposal defining the approval role of the city mayor on this issue. This is highly suspicious language, considering Marco Island does not even have a mayor. It points to a “cut-and-paste job,” stated Grifoni, calling into question what bureaucratic forces from other cities across the state are at work against the will of Marco Island voters.

In the end, Grifoni’s arguments persuaded the city council, which passed his motion to defer the moratorium with a 4–3 vote.

Grifoni is also fighting to save the city thousands of dollars and take a bite out of

the pork the council has been handing out to government employees.

Grifoni’s arguments persuaded the city council, which passed his motion to defer the medical marijuana moratorium with a 4–3 vote.

When outgoing Marco Island City Manager Roger Hernstadt resigned in February, the severance package he attempted to secure for himself — over and above what he was owed — included 20 weeks’ pay, plus benefits through the end of the year. City Attorney Alan Gabriel negoti-

ated a slightly better separation agreement, but kept Hernstadt on as a “consultant” through the end of year.

That’s when Grifoni, a practicing attorney, stepped in and negotiated a more reasonable severance package for Hernstadt, cutting out extraneous perks such as a taxpayer-funded iPad, saving the taxpayers over \$40,000 in severance money. This also helped to avoid a potentially drawn-out legal battle, and to set a precedent to push back on large payouts and poorly negotiated packages.

In an article published in the *Naples Daily* on March 14, Grifoni is quoted as saying, upon completion of the final separation agreement: “No more good ol’ boy agreements...written on the back of taxpayers.” •



Jared Grifoni speaking during a Marco Island City Council meeting

Zielinski re-elected in Del.

...continued from page 6

nate filing fees required for home improvements.

When asked why he switched his affiliation to Libertarian, he said, “The GOP worked against me. They opposed my reductions in taxes and spending, and they proposed tax increases instead. That’s when I had enough of it.”

Zielinski expressed his appreciation for Libertarians who supported his campaign in both his New Castle County affiliate and the state LP.

“[Former LPDE state chair] Scott Gesty helped tremendously,” he said.

He also noted that Dan Beaver, another former

LPDE state chair, was his treasurer. “Dan was there for me all the time, giving advice and helping me along.”

“Congratulations to my friend Ed Zielinski in his landslide victory for Elsmere Town Council representing the fourth district,” Gesty said. “I’m honored to know Ed and work with him and so many others in the Libertarian Party of Delaware.”

“I’m incredibly proud and grateful for all of the time and hard work that Ed has dedicated so he can continue to represent his community,” said incoming LP Delaware Chair Sean Goward. “I’m also continuously amazed at the support our party members across the state pour out to ensure each campaign’s success.” •

Ed Zielinski’s website: EdForThe4th.com

Rockhold for U.S. House

...continued from page 6

the *Eagle* covered.

Fellow Libertarian activist Jordan Husted has asked Rockhold to run for Kansas governor in 2018, which he’s considering. Republican Gov. Sam Brownback is term-limited and cannot seek re-election.

Rockhold told the *Eagle* that his congressional campaign was “a good opportunity [to let] people know who

I am and what I’m about.”

Prior to moving to Kansas, Rockhold ran on the Libertarian ticket in 2014 in the state of Washington for state house district 17B.

A Libertarian since his high school days, Rockhold is a flight instructor living in Wichita. •

Campaign website: ChrisRockhold.com

Twitter: @ChrisForKansas

Facebook page: [Facebook.com/ChrisForKansas](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisForKansas)

Relaunch of LP Action website

The LP Action website, a resource for Libertarian candidates, affiliates, and party activists, was relaunched in April.

The website, originally designed by Andy Burns, the LNC’s state affiliate development specialist, was reorganized and updated by LNC Political Director Carla Howell and Burns to improve navigability, update content, and add more features. Content was supplied by Howell, Burns, and other LP members.

The website contains information about ballot access and petitioning, reporting requirements, fundraising, effective communication, logos, other graphic templates that can be used on websites and in literature, and much more.

Candidates can learn how to run a Libertarian campaign, formulate Libertarian proposals and convey them persuasively, write a press release, put up a website, and more.

Affiliates can find information about how to organize and run an affiliate, recruit and vet candidates, run a Facebook page, and more.

Visit LPAction.org today. •



Carlisle runs for mayor of Seattle

By Carla Howell

Libertarian Casey Carlisle is running for mayor of Seattle against (at press time) 21 other candidates, all of whom are big-government Democrats, activists, and socialists in this deep blue city.



Casey Carlisle, Libertarian candidate for mayor of Seattle, Wash.

“We need to simplify the business license tax, and do away with the other taxes,” Carlisle said at his website. “It’s not for the government to reward certain businesses while punishing others.”

Carlisle: “We need to get rid of occupational licensing. We don’t need the city’s permission to go about our lives in the manner we see fit.”

“We also need to get rid of occupational licensing,” he said. “We don’t need the city’s permission to go about our lives in the manner we see fit.”

He aims to stop the city’s “caring” for the homeless—which, he says, is wasting taxpayer money while driving up the homeless population.

continued on page 10...

Refund it all!

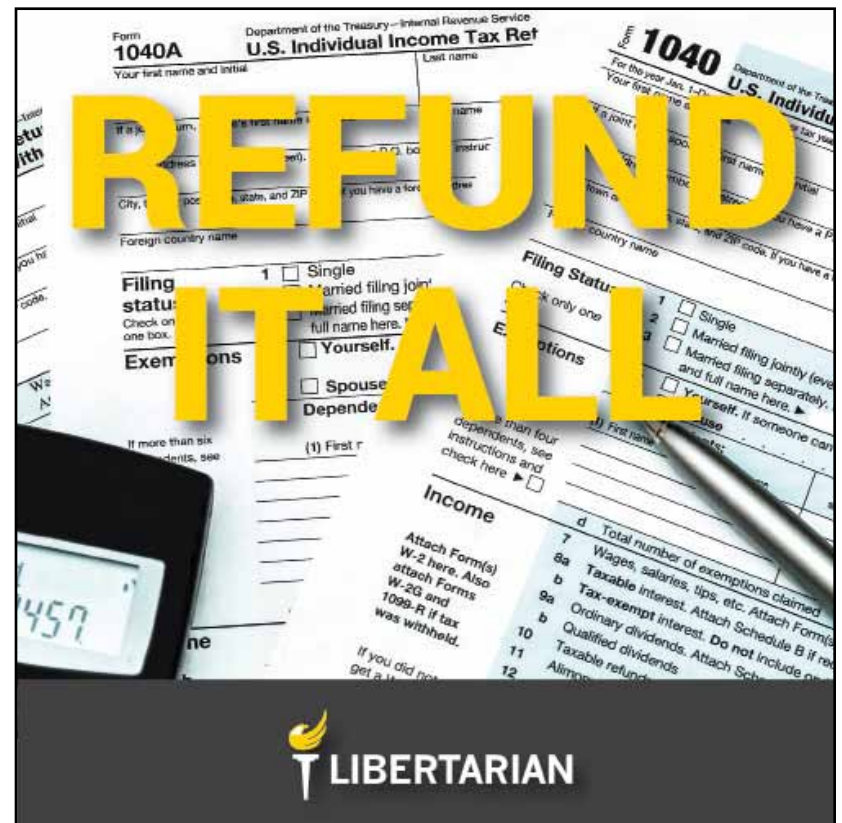
Libertarians believe that Americans have the right to use their hard-earned money as they see fit. Today and every day, we call for a full refund for all Americans, and complete abolishment of the income tax.

Currently, the average American family pays \$13,758 in federal income taxes.

This is enough money to buy a quality pre-owned car. This is enough money to pay tuition for one year at many in-state universities. This is enough money for a down-payment on a nice house.

In short, the amount of money the average American family pays in income taxes is enough money to substantially improve their quality of living.

Every dollar that the federal government takes from Americans every year is a dollar they can’t use to make a better life for themselves and their families. Instead, it is used by politicians to benefit their special-interest cronies. The best thing the government could do is to stop stealing money from hard-working people. That’s why we are calling for a 100 percent tax refund to every American. •



Thinking of running for office? It's not too early to plan your 2018 run.

Visit LP.org/run-for-office, and send us your inquiry. You’ll receive, from your state LP affiliate or national LP headquarters, information you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state’s election laws, and get on the ballot.

LP councilmen in Fla.

...continued from page 3

Sullivan’s winning message during his 2015 election was to keep the local volunteer fire department independent by rescinding the previous council’s decision to hand it over to Polk County. He argued this would keep down both costs and response times.

Sullivan has also fought powerful interests from the neighboring Orlando metropolitan area, which has sought to siphon Frostproof’s water supply.

“There are some who would like for us to unincorporate and be a part of the county so they can absorb our tax base, and we’ll continue to have that fight with them,” he said.

“We keep reminding the people that it is their money, and the one thing about Frostproof is: it is a really independent-minded town. They see how the town was built privately with very little government intervention.”

Sullivan plans to run for re-election in 2018: “This isn’t a one-time thing.” •

Elected in Illinois

...continued from page 3

Libertarian principles.

He believes frequent public appearances also worked for Brian Inzerello, who was appointed, then in April elected, to the Des Plaines Elementary School Board, Dist. 62.

Howard used social media to boost his name recognition. He set up a Facebook page where he shares news articles and announcements from local businesses, including Chamber of Commerce special events. He estimates that “over the course of my year-long campaign, 2,000 people saw my name three times a day.”

Other Illinois Libertarians elected on April 4: Aaron Wright for Collinsville Recreation Board, Tami Wessel for Brookport Mayor, Kelly Liebmann for Greenwood Township Trustee, and Jonathan Russell for Harrisburg CUSD #3 School Board. Karin Vermillion was reelected to the Mahomet Library Board, and John Prentice was reelected Paw Paw Trustee. •

Battle against FEC, CPD

...continued from page 5

in district court. If they ultimately win the case, Gary Johnson, the LP, and other co-plaintiffs would be eligible for treble damages caused by the defendants.

Ron Nielson, Johnson’s former campaign manager, told *Reason* in a Hit & Run Blog entry posted on April 21, “Our fundamental objection has always been [to] the arbitrary use of polling thresholds to exclude otherwise qualified candidates from participating in the debates. Any acceptable outcome has to address that arbitrary exclusion, and prevent it from happening in the future.” •

Correction

The December 2016 issue of *LP News* (page 9) reported that California state senate candidate Honor “Mimi” Robson (33rd district) received 31,868 votes, or 21.2 percent of the vote. Robson actually garnered 48,316 votes, or 21.4 percent of the vote, in her two-way race against Democrat Ricardo Lara.

You can read all Libertarian candidates’ vote results for the November 2016 election on the website: LP.org/updated-november-2016-libertarian-election-results

Arizona Libertarians launch referendum to repeal ballot-initiative barriers

by Kim Ruff and Carla Howell

During the 2017 legislative session, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed into law several bills, including H.B. 2404, a bill that severely limits voter choice—and which Libertarians in the state aim to kill. It requires the sponsors of referendums, recalls, and initiatives to pay professional petitioners by the hour, rather than per signature, which makes placing measures on the ballot cost-prohibitive for grassroots organizations. It also opens the door for frivolous lawsuits.

On March 30, Grassroots Citizens Concerned, a legislative watchdog and citizen advocacy group, filed a referendum to repeal H.R. 2404 with the Arizona secretary of state.

Shipley: “We’re going all out to get this referendum on the ballot so that the initiative process in Arizona remains viable, ensuring citizens have a powerful voice in government.”

The group, which calls its campaign “#Refer2404,” was founded by Mike Shipley, chair of Outright Libertarians and secretary of the Arizona Libertarian Party, and Kim Ruff, Arizona state coordinator and vice chair of the Libertarian Party Radical Caucus.

They have until August 10 to gather 75,000 valid signatures on this statewide measure to ensure it will be referred

to voters on the 2018 ballot. As of May 17, they had gathered 5,000 signatures from volunteers.

The group is well-organized. They built coalitions with like-minded grassroots organizations, expanding their volunteer base to 8,000 people, and they set up team leaders in seven of Arizona’s 15 counties.

They established recurring collection points throughout the state where volunteers can turn in their completed petitions and have them notarized.

They sent multiple press releases tracking the campaign’s progress to over 3,000 contacts in television, radio, print, and online media.

The campaign has been featured in several periodicals, including the *Arizona Republic* and *Phoenix New Times*.

Using GoFundMe, by May 17 they had raised \$4,172 toward a goal of \$10,000—to pay for printing and shipping petitions, notary licenses for team leaders, website and social media, event planning, tabling, and outreach.

“This campaign has taken off like a rocket in just six weeks,” said Shipley. “We’re going all out to get this referendum on the ballot so that the initiative process in Arizona remains viable, ensuring citizens have a powerful voice in government.” •

Website: Refer2404.org

Facebook page: [Facebook.com/Refer2404](https://www.facebook.com/Refer2404)



Glenn Beck interviews LNC chair on radio, TV

On May 11, Glenn Beck interviewed Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark on both his radio and television shows.



The radio interview on “The Glenn Beck Show” ran for 30 minutes, and the TV interview on “Glenn” was an hour long.

Sarwark explained to Beck, a Mormon, that people of all world views—from devout worshippers to atheists—are welcome in the Libertarian Party.

“Everyone who wants more freedom for their communities, for people to start businesses, for their children to grow up in a really, truly free society, that becomes what America used to be, and can be again, what we were founded on, they are all welcome in the Libertarian Party,” he said.

When asked whether the libertarian movement can overcome the culture wars to bring more people together, Sarwark explained that the Libertarian Party’s mission is to keep government from affecting people’s lives. “When the only thing at stake is the war of words, people can disagree...without worrying that their fundamental rights will be taken away.”

The radio interview and video clips of both interviews can be accessed at: LP.org/lnc-chair-interviewed-glenn-beck-show •

Libertarians kill marijuana censorship law

by Carla Howell

On March 24, Illinois Libertarians Claire Ball and Scott Schluter won their lawsuit, *Ball v. Madigan*, when U.S. District Court Judge John Z. Lee struck down a 2013 law that targeted medical cannabis cultivation centers and dispensary organizations by prohibiting them from donating to candidates for state or local office.

“These are legitimate, legal businesses that are being excluded from the political process that everyone else participates in, including tobacco, alcohol, and other pharmaceutical companies,” said Schluter in a press release he issued during his campaign. “This is nothing

Schluter: It’s ridiculous that we still have barbaric laws that throw people in cages because a bunch of old white guys in ties disapprove of their gardens.

but discrimination and a gross violation of Illinoisans’ right to free speech.”

Claire Ball was the 2016 LP candidate for comptroller, and Scott Schluter ran for state house in the 117th district. However, he was not on the ballot because of the state’s severely restrictive ballot-access laws for alternative-party legislative candidates.

Judge Lee’s decision overturns a Jan. 2016 ruling by state Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who denied all allegations that the ban is unconstitutional.

Schluter and Ball hope the lawsuit, filed by the Pillar of Law Institute, will help to bring about eventual legalization of marijuana in the state.

“This is the first of many steps towards loosening the restrictions on a legitimate medicine and helping people get the treatment they need,” Schluter said. “It’s ridiculous that we still have these barbaric laws across the country that throw people in cages because a bunch of old white guys in ties disapprove of their gardens. It’s past time that we start getting the government out of our gardens and out of our lives.” •



Claire Ball



Scott Schluter in a televised campaign interview

Creswell race in Michigan

...continued from page 3

District and their citizens, who are starved for freedom from political machines.”

Because he is the only Libertarian in a partisan election this year, he is anticipating unprecedented support from Libertarians throughout the state.

“I will campaign in defense of individual rights and the free market,” said Creswell. “Which means, if I am elected, I will seek to completely repeal the no-fault [auto insurance] law, deny politicians access to our income, and support constitutional-carry gun rights.” •

Campaign website: GregCreswell.com

Greg Stempfle contributed to this article.

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LP members invited to participate in training calls

On Jan. 31, the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) began sponsoring conference calls to provide training opportunities to hundreds of Libertarians across the country. The featured guest speakers have included LP staff, LNC representatives, and industry experts.

The calls last one hour, with a 15- to 20-minute presentation at the beginning, followed by Q&A for the remainder of the call.

Due to high volumes of callers, the callers' audio is muted and they submit their questions via e-mail. The questions are read by the call moderator.

"Thank you for these calls," said LP member Bruce Wilson. "As someone new to politics and the party, listening to informed Libertarians is motivating me to do more."

Member C. Matthews said, "You all have had some pretty good speakers on, when I see the e-mails. They seem to be happening more frequently, which is great!"

"It was informative and very exciting to hear the wisdom of a like-minded libertarian," said Gale Marie.

In reaction to a call entitled "Grow Your State and Local Party," with Andy Burns, the LNC's state affiliate development specialist, Sarah Ockerman said, "Thank you for having this event! I found it very helpful and look forward to putting the advice to good use!"

The following topics were covered in the conference calls held through June 6:

- Welcome New Members / How to Get

Involved, with Caryn Ann Harlos

- Talk with Elected Libertarians, with Brett Bittner and Joshua Katz
- Ballot Access, with Bill Redpath and Bob Johnston
- Growing Local and State Party, with Andy Burns
- Reaching the Oppressed, with Starchild
- Ballot Access Battleground, with Ken Moellman
- Outreach to the Right, with Matt and Terry Kibbe
- Outreach to Students and Millennials, with Dr. Jim Lark and Trent Somes
- How to Get Your Campaign Started, with C. Michael Pickens
- Communicating Libertarianism, with Larry Sharpe
- How to Effectively Do Outreach Through Tabling, with Andy Burns
- Outreach to the Center, with Joshua Katz
- Fundraising 101, with Brett Bittner
- Outreach to Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSM), with Mike Shipley

The Libertarian Party announces these conference calls approximately one week in advance by e-mail. If you don't already receive e-mail announcements from the LNC, sign up at LP.org/sign-up. The instructions change on how to join each call, so make sure your e-mail app will accept messages from Info@LP.org. •

Spotlight on Supporters

Libertarian humanitarian changing lives

by Jess Mears

Most Libertarians would agree that many government welfare services can be replaced with private charity, but few have received presidential accolades for their efforts to improve communities.

Dr. William Markle of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1980. He discovered the libertarian philosophy by reading a book by Ed Clark, and felt the plans laid out by Clark would improve the country.

"Libertarians stick to their principles, which you don't always see with other political parties.... They believe in a smaller government, free markets, and peace, and those are basic principles that I believe in," Markle said.

Around the same time that he discovered libertarianism, Markle and his wife, Mary, began performing medical work abroad. They devoted several years of service in Thailand and Indonesia, providing medical and community development support to under-served areas. Later, they worked with others to form a clinic in Honduras. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Markle aided displaced Haitians on site with basic medical care, and watched as they formed small businesses at displaced people's camps.

In 2007, Markle and some co-workers started the 9th Street Free Clinic in McKeesport, Penn. to provide basic health care to the uninsured. With a modest operating budget of \$40,000 per year, Dr. Markle



Dr. William Markle

says, "You don't need huge amounts of money to do a lot of good."

In 2015, Markle was awarded the Volunteer Service Award by President Obama for his humanitarian efforts both overseas and domestically. Dr. Markle enjoys giving to the community, and has found patients to be extremely appreciative of the services, with many leaving contributions in the donation box. He said, "The little things we do to help people make the biggest differences." He added, "If people have freedom and the resources to give in the ways they want to give, I think people will do that even more."

Thank you, Dr. Markle, for your contribution to your community and continued support of the Libertarian Party! •

N.H. rep joins the LP

...continued from page 1

tarian Party, a sitting state representative has left the Democratic Party for the Libertarian Party. And it's the first time in nearly two decades that the New Hampshire general court will have a Libertarian caucus.

Because the Libertarian Party now has two state representatives, it is entitled to be recognized as a caucus—with its own room at the capitol.

"I look forward to this caucus growing," Perry continued, "and hope that more of the classical liberals and civil libertarians in the general court will defect from the two-party system and join the Party of

"The way it seems to work up here, you're either rising [on] the political ladder, or taking orders from those who are. Each session, I was handed a lists of chores telling me what to vote on for that day."

—Joseph Stallcop

Principle. I look forward to liberty in our lifetime!"

According to Perry, the New Hampshire House Libertarian Caucus, with Dyer as its floor leader, will work to minimize state government, lower taxes, and eliminate barriers to conducting business. It will "work hard to expand personal liberty while protecting the rights of individuals and businesses within the state," he said.

Stallcop, a student at Keene State College, has become a dues-paying member of both the national and state Libertarian Parties. •

Carlisle for mayor

...continued from page 8

"The city is only aiding and abetting the homelessness problem" he told *MyNorthwest.com*, which ran a feature story on his campaign.

Carlisle gave a speech on April 13 at a Liberty on the Rocks event to a welcoming crowd, and was interviewed on KTTH talk radio on May 1 by host Todd Herman, who was very supportive of Carlisle's campaign.

The mayoral primary election will be held on Aug. 1. Because Washington has a top-two open primary voting system, only the top two finishers will advance to the Nov. 7 election. •

Campaign website: CaseyForSeattle.com

Two states repeal straight ticket *Eight states cling to the device*

by Carla Howell

Straight-ticket voting, one of the many barriers that Democratic and Republican politicians have used to maintain their stranglehold on American politics, was dealt two more blows in May, with its repeal in both Iowa and Texas.

A straight-ticket ballot lists the parties that are ballot-qualified at the top of the ballot, usually “Democrat” and “Republican,” plus any other recognized parties. Voters can check off a box next to one of these parties, casting a vote for all of that party’s candidates on their ballot.

Eleven other states have repealed the straight-ticket device over the last 50 years: Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

Those who vote straight-ticket seldom read the ballot and are not even aware of any Libertarian candidates who may be running.

The device works to the advantage of Democrats and Republicans. Those parties are always ballot-qualified, and they tend to have candidates in every competitive race, as well as many non-competitive races.

Those who vote party line using this device seldom read the ballot and are not even aware of any Libertarian candidates who may be running. Where the device is in use, often 30–50 percent of voters cast a straight-ticket vote, almost always for Democrats or Republicans.

When voters use the straight-ticket device, it puts, on average, about 40 percent of the voting population out of reach for Libertarians, leaving only 60 percent up for grabs. A Libertarian, therefore, would need to win more than 50 percent of the

remaining votes to eke out a plurality in a three-way race—a tall order even for many Democrats and Republicans.

Many witnesses testified in favor of the Texas bill to repeal, H.B. 25, including the Libertarian Party, the League of Independent Voters, the Green Party, and election officials from several counties, who pointed out problems with its implementation. The Democratic Party and the NAACP testified against repeal. Democrats are now claiming they will sue to block repeal.

One of the reasons that straight ticket is losing popularity is that it causes confusion and doesn’t work well with electronic voting machines.

Some voters vote a straight ticket and then, for emphasis, vote individually for candidates of the same party that they had just used the device to vote for. They are not aware that when they do this, the machine cancels their straight-ticket selection and all associated votes.

In Texas, where state judges are elected on a partisan basis, straight-ticket voting has resulted in the election of less-qualified judges. There have been many instances when highly regarded judges, both Democrats and Republicans, were defeated for re-election by individuals who were barely qualified. Many bar association officials and defeated judges have testified in Texas legislative committees this year about how bad the straight-ticket device works in judicial elections.

Eight states still retain the straight-ticket device: Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, and Michigan. It was repealed in Michigan, but it still appears on the ballot because last year a U.S. district court judge ordered the state to leave it in place. A trial to settle the matter, *Michigan State A. Philip Randolph Institute v. Johnson*, is expected to be held soon. Repeal of straight-ticket voting in Texas will go into effect in 2020. •

Richard Winger, publisher of Ballot Access News, contributed to this report.

Senator Ebke (L–Neb.) champions passage of ballot access bill

by Bob Johnston

Thanks to the efforts of Libertarian legislator Laura Ebke, recognized parties now have two methods to stay on the ballot in Nebraska.

LB 34, introduced by Sen. Ebke, passed 49–0, allowing a party with at least 10,000 registered voters to stay on the ballot. The Nebraska Libertarian Party (LPNE) currently has 12,012 registered voters.

The other method already in place is for a party’s statewide candidate to get at least 5 percent of the vote in either of the last two general elections. Prior to the new law’s passage, the LPNE had ballot access through 2018. It is now well-positioned to retain ballot access indefinitely.

In other ballot-access news...

Iowa: Lawmakers repealed the straight-ticket device in the state (see article, “Iowa repeals straight ticket,” at left).

New Mexico: The N.M. secretary of state, who initially had said that the LP would not qualify for major-party status, has changed her mind and now agrees with the LP’s interpretation of the law that defines ballot status. At issue was the date when the requirement that the party have one-third of 1 percent of the voter registration takes effect. Originally, she had said it was effective Jan. 2016, when the LP had less than the requirement, rather than 2018, when the LP is expected to easily meet the requirement. As a result, the LP will almost certainly have major-party status in 2018.

Arkansas: The Arkansas LP is petitioning to get the party on the ballot. There are approximately 7,904 signatures on hand as of May 4. The party needs to submit 10,000 valid signatures by June 25, and plans to submit 15,000 signatures.

Kentucky: At a May 11 conference, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear *Libertarian Party of Kentucky v. Grimes*, 16-1034. The issue was the state’s definition of a qualified party. To remain ballot-qualified, Libertarians will need to again receive at least 2 percent of the vote in the presidential election.



Sen. Laura Ebke (L–Nebraska)

North Carolina: The state senate passed a bill to lower the statewide signature threshold to 10,000 signatures, dramatically fewer than the 94,831 currently required to get on the ballot. The bill is active in the state house. LPNC has ballot status through 2020.

South Dakota: Because of the passage of HB1034 on March 13, a party needs any statewide candidate to get 2.5 percent of the vote in a general election. Previously, this vote test for ballot access could be met only by its gubernatorial candidate. Under the old rule, only two alternative parties had been able to retain ballot access since 1926, including the LP in 1994. Gubernatorial and federal candidates must still petition to be placed on the primary ballot, but other statewide candidates are nominated by convention. LPND has ballot access through 2018.

Ohio: On April 19, the Ohio Supreme Court refused to rehear *Fockler v. Husted*, 2016-1863, one of the Libertarian Party’s ballot-access cases. This case involved whether Gary Johnson’s presidential vote in Nov. 2016 created a new ballot-qualified party.

continued on page 12...

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Young Libertarian Party Leaders, Part 2

by Carla Howell and Laura Ann Valle

Andrew Martin Kolstee

Andrew Kolstee founded the Libertarian Party of Chautauqua County at age 24. In addition to serving as its chair, he also serves on the New York LP state committee.

His skills as a communicator and a writer have helped him excel as a local party leader in his hometown of Jamestown, N.Y. He doesn't crave the spotlight—he would much rather be working to support LP candidates and to grow the party.

Kolstee has a deep interest in history, which led him to dig into his own family tree. He has been offering his skills as a professional genealogist since 2014. He also works in graphic design, video production, and website development. He's currently attending Jamestown Community College, working on a degree in political science. His goals include running for office as a Libertarian.

Mariner Durant

In Oct. 2016, Mariner Durant, age 23, founded the Libertarian Party of Lauderdale County, Miss., to grow the party and lay groundwork for the Gary Johnson for President campaign. Members of the affiliate, which he now chairs, placed signs for the Johnson ticket around the county.

Using Facebook to advertise the group's first meetings, Durant initially attracted seven participants. The affiliate now has 25 members and "countless volunteers."

The group set its sights on the 2017 municipal elections in Meridian. Within three months, they had placed two



Mariner Durant

candidates on the ballot.

"As we were the first challengers to hit social media, the incumbent Democratic mayor, Percy Bland, used his employees to regularly troll our pages," Durant said.

Mariner Durant is heavily involved in Meridian politics. He created a video to publicize the town's notorious "school-to-prison pipeline," where schoolchildren get charged with minor infractions, sent to court, and incarcerated in juvenile detention. Infractions include dress code violations or leaving the classroom to go to the bathroom without permission from the teacher.

Durant was running a serious campaign for mayor this year to challenge Bland, but was forced to withdraw from the race to address family matters.

Aaron Sobczack

Aaron Sobczack has been interested in politics for as long as he can remember. He helped found a Libertarian Youth Caucus (LYC) chapter at Liberty University in Virginia in 2016, and is currently serving as the campus coordinator for the Students for Liberty (SFL) organization. During the 2016 presidential campaign tour, he was instrumental in getting Gov. Johnson in front of one of the largest university crowds he addressed during the campaign. All of this was during his first few months of his first semester in college.

Sobczack has helped ensure that the LYC and libertarian movement continue to garner attention, add members, and accumulate resources for the upcoming election season. He's majoring in government and is considering law school. He



Aaron Sobczack

hopes to have a career in public service one day, at the local, state, or federal level. His favorite part of the week is Sunday, serving in the church band in the percussion department. He's an active volunteer, has a passion for orchestra, and plays the drums, guitar, piano, and trombone. He also works at the YMCA to help pay his way through college.

Trent Somes III

The Libertarian Youth Caucus was formed in March 2016, and one of the key leaders of this group has been Trent Somes. Still in high school, his list of accomplishments would be impressive for someone twice his age. This 19-year-old is the national chairman of the Libertarian Youth Caucus (LYC) and a Region 5 alternate rep to the Libertarian National Committee.

He also served as the chair of the Westmoreland County Libertarian Party before recently stepping down.

Somes gave a well-received presentation to his high school classmates, telling them about the Libertarian Party and the 2016 presidential campaign. He also spoke at the LP Washington state convention this April, explaining why youth involvement is vitally needed for electoral success. Somes's passion and leadership have helped inspire many other young people to help grow the LYC and to work on recruiting more youth to the party.

Trent Somes was accepted to Washington and Jefferson College this year. He plans to serve in the Marine Corps Reserves and will begin boot camp in June 2017. A favorite hobby of his is collecting cigars and pipes. •



Trent Somes III

Ballot access updates

...continued from page 11

The Ohio LP is petitioning to get the party on the ballot and has collected 21,602 signatures as of May 4. The party needs to submit 53,254 valid signatures by July 4, 2018, and plans to submit 100,000.

Virginia: Party members have collected 7,500 signatures as of May 12 for Cliff Hyra's gubernatorial campaign (see "Libertarian Cliff Hyra running high-visibility race for Virginia Governor," page 1).

The campaign will need to submit 10,000 valid signatures, with at least 400 signatures from each of the 11 congressional districts, by June 13. They plan to submit at least 14,000 signatures.

Maine: A bill was introduced to reduce the number of registered voters needed to become a recognized party from 10,000 to 5,000, for which LPME would qualify. Current law also allows a party to be recognized if any of its statewide candidates get at least 5 percent in a general election. LPME met this requirement in 2016 when LP presidential nominee Gary Johnson garnered 5 percent of the vote.

Tennessee: The Tennessee LP is petitioning to get the party on the ballot and has collected approximately 5,000 signatures as of May 4. The party will need to submit 33,559 valid signatures by Aug. 8, 2017, and plans to submit 56,000 signatures. •

Richard Winger, Bill Redpath, Paul Frankel, Carla Howell, and Ken Moellman contributed to this article.

One of my least favorite phrases

Perhaps you can help me to dispel a misconception. It is born of a phrase that sets my teeth on edge, causes the hair on the back of my neck to stand up, elevates my blood pressure, and can result in fulminating and inveighing.

That vampire of a phrase: "Paying for tax cuts." I mean, really?

One can embrace the concept of "paying for tax cuts" if, and only if, one assumes that all capital, income, and wealth belong to the government, and that we must wait breathlessly for our semi-elected officials to dole out our allotted pittance, while they, in their oh-so-finite wisdom decide what is the best fate of our "appropriated" (in at least two senses of the word) funds. This concept also relies on the notion that government can



never get by on less than before. It assumes that spending must increase, entitlements broaden, and even that reducing the rate of growth of budgets is cutting them.

Here's a novel idea: Give us our money back and spend less.

Please help me drive stakes through the heart of this Draculian misnomer whenever and wherever you encounter it.

Thank you.

—Ken Moore, Precinct 241 Chair
Travis County, Texas

AFFILIATE

Updates

Affiliate news and events are provided to *LP News* by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Alaska

Record-breaking senate campaign

The Alaska Libertarian Party (ALP) just completed an excellent annual convention. We were visited by such luminaries as Caryn Ann Harlos, LNC Region 1 representative, who presented a thought-provoking presentation on the origins of the Libertarian Party. Dr. Nick Begich shared an uplift-



LP Alaska convention promotional material

ing message on Libertarian unity, and on life experiences that were crucial to breaking through to individual actualization, accomplishment, and finding one's own truth. Both guests' presentations were streamed live on Facebook and have been posted for your enjoyment (pardon a few technical difficulties). The convention was also noted as "the smoothest-run state convention I have ever attended" by venerated Libertarian statesman Ron Windeler, a testament to the superb team on the board's getting it done! And we're just getting started!

Notable changes include the addition of a preamble to the Constitution affirming the national Libertarian Party platform's Statement of Principles, annual membership fee to be enumerated in the bylaws, and a change in convention delegate qualifications. The platform took on some changes as well.

The current executive board was retained: Chair Jon Watts, Vice Chair Randy Stevens; Secretary/Treasurer Cean Stevens, Membership Chair Stephanie Schaeffer, and Communications Chair Joel Hadley.

Notable gains made in Alaska over the last year include:

- National LP memberships: 98 for the current year vs. 56 for the previous

year: a 75 percent increase;

- ALP Facebook page "likes": 3,867 for the current year vs. 1,613 for the previous year: a 140 percent increase;
- Johnson-Weld campaign: 18,725 Alaskans voted Libertarian for president/vice president, garnering 5.9 percent total; and
- The ALP hosted the 2016 Liberty Tour in Anchorage for the visiting Johnson-Weld campaign.

The Joe Miller for U.S. Senate campaign was a record-breaker! Not only did Miller far exceed his polling numbers (which usually had him in the mid- to high teens), but he demolished our party's record with an impressive 29.4 percent of the vote in the general election, for our all-time best showing in a race for the office.

Arkansas

LP Arkansas begins ballot-access drive

On March 26, the Libertarian Party of Arkansas (LPAR) launched a ballot-access petition drive. The party has 90 days in which to collect 10,000 valid voter signatures to qualify for full ballot access—federal, state and local—in the 2018 general elections. With no second chances allowed on the petitioning effort, ensuring that 10,000 signatures will be valid requires collecting as many as 15,000 raw signatures.

This will be the fourth consecutive time that LPAR has petitioned to become a "new political party" in Arkansas. Although its candidates up and down the ballot have shown impressive gains in vote totals and percentages, particularly in 2016, ballot-access retention in Arkansas depends only on the top-of-the-ticket vote percentage. At 2.64 percent, the Johnson-Weld ticket fell just short of the required 3 percent margin.

At press time, the petition drive is proceeding smoothly, with paid petitioners focusing on the central and northwest population centers of the state. Volunteer efforts were boosted by the party's state convention on April 8. LPAR Chair Michael Pakko reports that the drive reached its half-way point five weeks into the campaign, suggesting a completion date in early June. The Secretary of State's office will then have 30 days to validate the signatures.

"The number one priority of the LPAR is achieving and maintaining ballot access,"

said Pakko. "We appreciate the financial and logistical support provided by the LNC and the national ballot access committee, and commend the hard work of all the local volunteers that are making it possible."

Ballot-access retention beyond the 2018 election will depend on the party's candidate for governor receiving at least 3 percent of the vote—a mark that party leaders see as achievable. "Our party's candidates and brand continue to pick up name recognition and support," said Pakko. "With a strong candidate at the top of our ticket, I believe 3 percent is well within our grasp."

California

Convention draws distinguished speakers, three gubernatorial candidates announce

The Libertarian Party of California annual convention was held April 28–30 in Santa Clara. The event was the best attended in years, and featured distinguished speakers such as economist David Friedman, Eric Garriss of Antiwar.com, Patrick Byrne of Overstock.com, political consultant Matt Kibbe, businessman Chris Rufer, and LNC Vice Chair Arvin Vohra.

Three Libertarians have already announced their candidacy for governor of California in 2018, and they held an impromptu debate. They are Zoltan Istvan, Nickolas Wildstar, and Robert Griffis.

Officers were elected for two-year terms. Ted Brown was re-elected chair, and Jonathan Jaech was re-elected southern vice chair. Honor "Mimi" Robson was elected secretary. Dr. Kenneth Brent Olsen was elected northern vice chair, and Steven Haug was elected treasurer. Elected to at-large positions on the state executive committee were Alex Appleby, Boomer Shannon, Wendy Hewitt, Tyler Kuskie, Zachary Moore, Robert Imhoff-Dousharm, and Jennifer Imhoff-Dousharm, plus alternate at-large representative Baron

Bruno. Continuing their existing terms on the executive committee are Susan Marie Weber, David Bowers, and Jason Wu.

Colorado

Op-ed published in the Denver Post

LP Colorado (LPCO) has come out of a very successful convention with a new board of directors, being described as a "powerhouse" collection of new and seasoned Libertarians who will be planning



LP Colorado convention committee members Bill Arnett and Alan Hayman

ambitious goals for the coming year.

Its newly formed Media Action team, led by Delta County Chair Jay Stooksberry, had immediate success in having a clearly Libertarian opinion piece published in the *Denver Post*.

Newly elected Chair Wayne Harlos states, "I'm excited about the new direction that the party is taking in its focus on exposing Libertarian ideas to Coloradoans,

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LP California's 2017 executive committee. (L–R) Front row: Jennifer Imhoff-Dousharm, Honor "Mimi" Robson, Kenneth Brent Olsen, Ted Brown, Jonathan Jaech, Steve Haug, Robert Imhoff-Dousharm. Back row: Baron Bruno, Jason Wu, David Bowers, Wendy Hewitt, Alex Appleby, Zachary Moore, Tyler Kuskie, Boomer Shannon

Photo: Beacon Media Network / TheBeaconMedia.com

LPedia: Preserving our history

The Historical Preservation Committee of the Libertarian National Committee is pleased to announce the relaunch of LPedia.org, thanks to the work of several dedicated volunteers.

LPedia is a collaborative wiki of the history of the Libertarian Party, and will be home to the wealth of historical documentation being digitized and preserved by the committee. LP members are welcome to use it as a resource, or to open an account and participate as a contributor.

“As we grow and move towards our future, we must know our past, and we are in serious danger of losing it,” said Committee Chair Caryn Ann Harlos. “Many of the original delegates and liberty-fighters that started this party have passed away, and with them go their memories and their archives.”

Party members are welcome to view the committee’s discussions and deliberations.

LP members are welcome to use LPedia as a resource, or to open an account and participate as a contributor.



Its read-only committee discussion list is available by sending a message to LPHPC-Request@Lists.DehtBase.net with “subscribe” in the subject line. Chair Harlos can be reached directly at Caryn.Ann.Harlos@LP.org.

“This will not be limited to national items,” said Harlos. “State parties can also use LPedia to preserve and update their history. It will take on a life of its own—spontaneous order, if you will. Very libertarian,” she says.

Contributions are sought to assist in funding the archiving of voluminous LP records that the committee aims to add to LPedia.org. To help get these materials into the hands of activists, affiliates, and members, visit TinyURL.com/donate-lp-history to make a donation. •

Highlights of April LNC meeting

by Alicia Mattson,
LNC Secretary

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met on April 15–16 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The LNC made its appointments to two committees for the 2018 Libertarian national convention.

Those appointed to the Bylaws and Rules Committee are M Carling, Andy Craig, David Pratt Demarest, Caryn Ann Harlos, Joseph Henchman, Joshua Katz, Alicia Mattson, Chuck Moulton, Kimberly Ruff, and Aaron Starr. Committee members subsequently chose Joshua Katz as their chair.

Those appointed to the Platform Committee are Andy Craig, John Fockler, Caryn Ann Harlos, Alicia Mattson (interim chair), and Jeffrey Miron. Aaron Starr was designated as an alternate member. Fifteen additional members will be appointed to this committee by eligible state affiliates.

The LNC adopted a motion brought by Joshua Katz to direct Libertarian Party staff

to build relationships with sympathetic congressional staffers, particularly in the senate, and direct up to half of our Candidates and Campaigns budget for that purpose.

To address recommendations from past audits, the LNC adopted a motion to have our legal counsel review and provide feedback on drafts of a document retention policy and a whistle-blower policy.

Given some recent uproar over the party’s social media content, the LNC created the Social Media Process Review Committee, tasked with assessing the strengths, weaknesses, and procedures for our social media programs and reporting their findings to the LNC. Brett Bittner, Daniel Hayes, and Steve Nekhaila were appointed to the committee, with the power to select an additional two members from outside the LNC. Following the meeting, they chose Alison Foxall and Elizabeth Van Horn to fill the remaining seats.

The next in-person meeting of the LNC will take place on August 19–20 in Kansas City, Missouri. •

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so that they in turn will vote for Libertarian candidates.”

LPCO is proud to be host state to the historical preservation project, with the national party records archive having been relocated from Alexandria, Va. to Parker, Col. at the end of April. The project is headed by LNC Region 1 Representative and LPCO Communications Director, Caryn Ann Harlos.

Illinois

Libertarians elected to local office

The Libertarian Party of Illinois held its 2017 state convention on April 7–8, featuring keynote speaker Larry Sharpe. Attendance was the highest in over a decade, with the banquet seating filled to overflowing. Our annual auction made record revenues for the party, and the ever-popular Libertarian Jeopardy played to a full house. Fran Holt, a founding member of LP Illinois in 1971, received this year’s prestigious David Nolan Founder’s Award for her activism.



Fran Holt of LP Illinois, recipient of David Nolan Founders Award

This year’s consolidated election for municipal and local district races saw Libertarians making further inroads. The following party members were elected: Aaron Wright to Collinsville recreation board; Tami Wessel as Brookport mayor; Kelly Liebmman as Greenwood Township trustee; Jonathan Russell to Harrisburg CUSD #3 school board; Jasen Howard as New Lenox trustee; and Brian Inzerello to Des Plaines District 62 board of education.

Candidates for the 2018 general election are stepping up early, as befits a seri-

ous campaign. There are three candidates vying for the LP’s gubernatorial nomination. We also have candidates who have announced for secretary of state and comptroller, as well as several more for state representative. All candidates for statewide office addressed the delegates at the convention.

LP Illinois’s membership growth rate remains high, only slightly reduced from its peak growth rate in late 2016. Volunteerism is on the rise, as well. In spite of increasing the number of positions on the board of directors, the majority of seats are filled with dedicated activists. The number of local chapters has tripled in three years, to 25, with five more in development.

In sad news, we lost one of our volunteers, Dennis Spears, and his girlfriend, Tanya Schafer. They were involved in a fatal motorcycle accident the evening after the close of our convention. Not only did we lose a dedicated Libertarian, but we lost a great friend.

Kansas

From the old parties, new party officials

New leaders were elected to LPKS party leadership: Kris Logan (Lansing), chair; Ric Koehn (Cimarron), treasurer; Victoria French (Wichita), 4th District coordinator; and Heather Toot (Leavenworth), 2nd District coordinator.

Logan, French, and Toot were previously Republicans or Democrats.

Chair Kris Logan said in a press release: “People shouldn’t be surprised our leadership is made up of both former Democrats and Republicans. As Libertarians, we know we don’t have to agree on all issues, we simply have to agree that we will not use force to make others live as we personally believe is best. That is what makes us Libertarian.”

“The Libertarian Party has been the fastest growing political party in Kansas for over a decade, and I think that trend is only going to accelerate as both middle-ground Republicans and Democrats join us...not to mention all the Kansas independents who simply don’t yet know that they are really Libertarians. Kansans are live-and-let-live people, and that is a core value of the Libertarian Party.”

The new leadership is the first in LPKS history to be predominantly female.

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LP: Trump's 'revenue neutral' tax proposal is taxpayer negative

American taxpayers get to take home just 54 cents on every dollar they earn, while federal, state, and local governments take the other 46 cents.

What a great deal for federal, state, and local governments. Not so hot for taxpayers. Crushing, in fact.

President Trump's tax-reform proposal that he partially unveiled on April 26 includes cuts in corporate tax rates, death taxes, and alternative minimum taxes. Republicans claim this plan will be "revenue neutral" after these measures stimulate economic growth.

But when politicians say their plan is "revenue neutral," what they're saying to taxpayers is, "We're keeping your taxes high. We're not cutting them a nickel."

"Drain the swamp" President Trump wants to keep spending at the same perilously high \$4 trillion water mark as President Obama.

Keeping taxes and government spending high means

government will remain wasteful, bloated, and dysfunctional. It will sustain thousands of wasteful bureaucracies and failed government programs. It will kill jobs, diminish people's freedom, invite more overseas meddling, and inflict stifling red tape on businesses and individuals.

It's taxpayer-negative.

The goal of any tax-reform proposal should be to dramatically reduce the total amount of money in politicians' hands. Government revenue-negative is taxpayer-positive.

We need tax cuts that give back thousands of dollars—every year—to taxpayers. Cuts that substantially hike everyone's take-home pay so taxpayers can save for their retirement, pay off their debts, support their families, enjoy the fruits of their labor, and take care of their loved ones in need.

Politicians forget: the money they take is not the government's. It belongs to the hard-working taxpayers who

earned it.

Better than two thirds of all Americans believe that federal government spending is way too high.

We must reduce total government spending enough to both immediately end deficit spending and enable huge, immediate, taxpayer-positive tax cuts.

The only way to drain a swamp is to pump water out of it not keep it at the same level.

The only way to drain the swamp in Washington, D.C. is to dramatically reduce total government spending, and to slash taxes.

Revenue-negative.

Taxpayer-positive. •



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Minnesota

Cara Schulz wins activism award

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota (LPMN) held their annual convention on April 29 in Maple Grove. A record 74 voting delegates registered in the morning business session to elect new leadership to succeed outgoing Chair Chris Dock, who has guided the LPMN in growing over 50 percent in both membership and fundraising over the last two years. Thank you, Chris!

A diverse line-up of afternoon speakers included: a Minnesota state legislator; a leader from NORML-Sensible Minnesota; a director at OutFront (Minnesota's largest LGBTQ rights group); the president of the University of Minnesota's College Libertarians; the founder of Project Delta (PTSD rescue/therapy dogs); a weapons class with GOCRA; a Right to Die chaplain; and our local "Hope Addict" (whose mission delivers street donations to Twin Cities homeless).

The excitement continued with evening speeches by Tom Mahon, recapping his time advising the Gary Johnson campaign, and Liberty America President Kevin Fortune, who "put liberty where his mouth is!" (We highly recommend him!) Our keynote speaker was the "e-mail baron" himself, national LP Executive Director Wes Benedict. All attendees received a copy of his wonderful book, *Introduction to the Libertarian Party*. Get it; read it; share it!

The real highlight was a tear-filled stand-



Cara Schulz with her award for Minnesota Libertarian of the Year, 2016

ing ovation for Cara Schulz, our local idol who was presented an award naming her Minnesota Libertarian of the Year, 2016. Cara was elected in 2016 to Burnsville City Council and has been eliminating a host of housing-conformity laws. She chaired Gary Johnson's presidential campaign in Minn. in 2012 and 2016. She organizes support at rallies and protests, leads charity drives, and collects signatures for ballot access for every Libertarian she can—even on her sick days. Her acceptance words were, "This is all of you doing this, not me." She sets the standard for a Libertarian in action.

Then we partied 'til the A.M. hours with agorists and superheroes.

Nebraska

Un-Convention in Omaha expanded

The 2017 Omaha Roads to Liberty Un-Convention has rapidly outgrown the venue previously planned for the October time frame. We have moved to an exciting, five-day event running tentatively Dec. 28 through Jan. 1 at the beautiful Embassy Suites/Marriott Courtyard/La Vista Conference Center in the Omaha area.

A Roads to Fun track has been added in parallel, to accommodate children, spouses, and Libertarians of all ages. The Family Fun track will offer day care on Sat. and Sun. (separate fee), self-funded tours, and a wide variety of activities guaranteed to keep Libertarians and their families entertained.

In addition to the formal banquet and concert on Sat. night, the Un-Convention has been further enhanced with a spectacular formal costume ball on New Year's Eve, complete with the first annual Libertarian Leadership Academy "Nolan" Awards and exciting Abney Park steam-punk entertainment. Join us in Omaha and help us make this the largest Libertarian event ever and our annual New Year's Libertarian fun celebration. Take a cup of kindness yet for your Libertarian Auld Lang Syne.

New York

New chapters forming

The efforts by members of the Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY) last year have paid off: the LPNY is growing. After adding three new county chapters in 2015, we added four new chapters in 2016, and have already added two more county chapters in 2017. This brings the total number

of county chapters to 19. The goal is, by the end of 2018, to have a strong and viable county chapter in every one of the 62 counties in N.Y. state. This may be a difficult target to reach, but it should be attainable if the LPNY members are willing to continue putting in the effort. The LPNY has 14 appointed temporary county chairmen (TCCs) working on establishing a chapter in each of their counties. While this is a record number, TCCs for the remaining 29 counties are being sought actively.

LPNY's annual convention, held April 29, was hosted by Shawn Hannon, chairman of the Onondaga County LP (OCLP), and was staffed by OCLP members. LNC Political Director Carla Howell led a "Who's Driving?" workshop. LNC Vice Chair Arvin Vohra, 2016 LP vice presidential candidate Will Coley, and 2016 vice presidential candidate and LNC Region 8 Alternate Rep Larry Sharpe all made presentations. Comedic relief was provided by Liberty Memes. We were honored to welcome also the chairman of LP Pennsylvania, Drew Bingaman, and his guest.

Convention delegates re-elected Mark Glogowski as chairman, Jim Rosenbeck and Brian Waddell as vice chairmen, Blay Tarnoff as secretary, Michael Dowden as treasurer. They also re-elected Mark Potwora, Aaron Comey, and Michael McDermott as representatives at large (RAL), and elected Shawn Hannon and Tony D'Orazio as new RALs.

Delegates passed four resolutions: "Resolution to Restore Convict Voting Rights"; "Resolution recommending the passage of the 'Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2017,' N.Y. State Assembly Bill 680"; "Resolution Declaring the Fourth Saturday of August as

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Libertarianism...has a greater grip on a greater number of prominent politicians, and Americans (see, for just one easily quantifiable example, the Libertarian Party nearly quadrupling its highest previous vote total) than ever in modern history.

Libertarianism certainly hasn't cleared the field in American political culture yet. But to be held to such a standard, when 20 years ago it was considered so unknown and insignificant that publications of the stature and focus of a *Forbes* or *Politico* would never have bothered running articles about how and why it's allegedly failing and fading, is its own kind of victory in political culture, and a necessary prelude to more important ones.

—**Reason's Hit & Run Blog, 4/26**

Troubling for Democrats is that while nearly no Trump voters would re-cast their ballot differently if given the chance, "buyer's remorse" is high among those who voted for Hillary Clinton...only 85 percent of Clinton voters would back her now.

Among the 15 percent of Clinton voters who say they would dump her for an alternate, more than half would vote third-party with Libertarian Gary Johnson garnering a majority of them, two percent would switch to Trump, and the rest would stay home.

—**Washington Blade, 4/28**

"Texas loves its mavericks, its wildcatters, and its competitive free-market business environment," said Mark Miller, Vice-chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas. "It's time for our great state to allow those same energies to be expressed at the ballot box...and Texas voters the political diversity they clearly crave."

—**PRWeb ("Texas Ballot Access Laws Restrict Voter Choice—Study Ranks Texas Among Nation's Worst"), 5/4**

The Libertarian Party is tracing its history back to its earliest days, which is somewhere around 1972. The results: "The LPedia" — a master library for loyal and curious Libertarians that will include historical documents, archives, news accounts, training materials, and more.

—**Washington Times, 4/25**

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"Thankful Libertarian Day"; and a resolution of "Endorsement of the 'Divisional Structure' proposal." The latter proposal was presented to the group by the chairman of the Divisional Structure committee, Andrew Kolstee, also chairman of the Chautauqua County LP.

Utah

Deseret News publishes state chair's op-ed

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of Utah was held in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers on Sat., April 22. Christine Stenquist of Together for Responsible Use and Cannabis Education (TRUCE) served as the keynote

ath, was re-elected as secretary.

On Sat., April 29, Short and Buchman were present for a "meet the new officers" reception in St. George (southern Utah).

On April 30, the *Deseret News*, Utah's largest newspaper, ran an op-ed by Buchman as chair of the Utah LP, titled, "Holding the Political Elites Accountable."

Following the resignation announcement of U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz (3rd district), the LP Utah executive committee has called a nominating convention for Saturday, June 10, to select from among several candidates seeking the Libertarian nomination to fill that seat in a special election to be held on Nov. 7.



L-R: Utah LP's Joseph G. Buchman, Brian Kamerath, Caryn Terres, and Barry Short

speaker. TRUCE is a group of concerned patients and caregivers advocating for safe legal access to medical cannabis as a tool for minimizing patient suffering and as a legitimate alternative to opioids in Utah.

Following reports by the outgoing chair and past candidate for Utah attorney general, W. Andrew McCollough, as well as the delegate chair to the 2016 presidential nominating convention, J. Rob Latham and others, elections were held for officers to serve through April 2019. Longtime activist and LP life member Dr. Joseph G. Buchman was elected as chair. Buchman worked on the 1992 Andre Marrou and 2012 Gary Johnson presidential campaigns, served as interim chair of the national platform committee (2012–2013), was a Libertarian candidate for the U.S. house (2008) and Utah state senate (2016), and is currently serving on the financial audit and historical preservation committees of the national party. 2016 candidate for Utah lieutenant governor, Barry Short, was elected vice chair. Caryn Terres was elected treasurer, and 2016 Libertarian candidate for Utah governor, Brian Kamer-

Virginia

Convention nominates Hyra for governor

The Libertarian Party of Virginia held a special state convention on May 6 in Chesterfield, where delegates nominated Cliff Hyra for governor. He criticized Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie's tax plan, and offered his own, much bolder, proposal. The Gillespie plan seems to be the standard against which other candidates will be measured.

Rick Sincere of Bearing Drift published an interview of Hyra.

The convention drew around 60 attendees, 44 of whom were voting members. About 25 stayed for the reception afterward.

Bill Redpath was named vice chair, and Rick Caldwell is the new secretary. Bo Brown remains state chair.

Matt Cholko is Virginia's representative to the national platform committee, and George Zsidisin will serve on the credentials committee for the 2018 Libertarian national convention in New Orleans. •

Upcoming LP conventions

June 10 (tentative): Utah *	July 29:	Michigan
June 17: Oregon	Aug. 5:	Kentucky †
June 23–25: Kentucky †	Aug. 11–13:	North Carolina
June 24: West Virginia	October (TBD):	Massachusetts
July 22: Missouri,	Nov. 4:	South Carolina
South Dakota		

For updates, visit: LP.org/2017-state-conventions

*A special nominating convention may be held June 10. †Aug. 5 is a special rules convention.